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ABSTRACT

Soviet national bibliographies register all types of publications printed in the Soviet Union regardless of the language in which they were published. These bibliographies are known as state bibliographies. This report dwells on the characteristics of the organization of a state bibliographic system in a multi-national socialistic state. The system of current state bibliographies which include approximately 40 publications (or "chronicles"), gives a clear view of printed matter in the Soviet Union. This system of "chronicles" ensures full registration and information about: books; pamphlets, magazines; newspapers; serials; transactions: music; graphic works; geographical, historical and astronomical maps and atlases; and provides within certain limitations, information about official, instructive and other publications for restrictive use. Despite the impressive amount of material reflected in the "chronicles," the libraries and scholars insist on further extension of sources represented in the analytical bibliographies, their scope and criteria of selection of the listed material. (MF)

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/USSR/

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN A MULTI-NATIONAL STATE

AS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE USSR

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The international conference on bibliography held in Warsaw in 1957, as is known, failed to arrive at a single opinion as regards the definition of the term "national bibliography". And although subsequently this problem has not found its theoretical solution, in the majority of countries national bibliography lists publications printed in the country regardless of the language in which they were published.

This most wide-spread type of the national bibliography has been known in the Soviet Union since the twenties as state bibliography.

As in accordance with its state structure, the USSR is a state embracing 15 Soviet Socialist Republics, the concept "state bibliography" includes general bibliographic registration achieved in the Soviet Union and on the Republic level.

Therefore when discussing the subject "National Bibliography in a Multi-National State" as based on the experience of the Soviet Union we shall dwell on the characteristics of the organization of a state bibliographic system in a multi-national socialist state.

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The victory of Soviet Power radically changed the historic destiny of all nationalities that populated the former Russian Empire.

The publication of books and periodicals is an

important levers in the realization of Lenin's national policy. In tsarist times territories of the Russian Empire, other than Russian proper, had no publishing whatsoever or it was in a pitiful state. Over 40 nationalities had no written language of their own. In 1918 publishing has been initiated by the People's Commissariat for Nationalities. A Central Publishing House of the Peoples of the USSR - Centroizdat - was organized in Moscow in 1924 on the basis of Eastern and Western publishing houses of the People's Commissariat of Nationalities. It was under the authority of the supreme legislative and administrative body of the USSR - the Central Executive Committee.

Publishing was energetically introduced in national republics and regions. However this effort came up against a host of difficulties: absence of a sound technical and material base, of writers, publishers and printers. "Centroizdat" had an enormous amount of work on its hands.

In world publishing practice it was an unequalled feat. "Centroizdat" of the peoples of the USSR published books and newspapers, works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, ABC books, popular political literature for the rural population, fiction, industrial and agricultural handbooks. It also trained personnel for national publishing houses and printing shops. "Centroizdat" actively participated in the creation of national written languages and made matrix-moulds for their printing

houses.

In 1924, the first year of its activities, "Centroizdat" produced publications in 25 languages and in 1931, the last year of its existence, in 76 languages, published in its unique publishing house.

By the beginning of the thirties the Republics developed so extensively that the need for "Centroizdat" disappeared.

In pre-war years publishing in the USSR achieved great heights and in the last 25 years rapidly continued to expand its output.

According to the statistics of the All-Union Book Chamber 2,300 million books and pamphlets or 35 billions 200 millions in 89 national languages were published in the USSR between 1918 and 1969.

Of 74,587 books and pamphlets published in the country in 1969, 47,133 were issued in the Russian Federation and 27,454 in other Soviet republics.

In 1969 newspapers came out in 57 languages of the peoples of the USSR as against 15 in 1913.

State bibliography reflects the development of cultural progress and major achievements of publishing in the country.

The Book Chamber was organised in Petrograd in May 1917 on the initiative of the Russian progressive intellegentsia its functions being the registration and bibliographing of all publications printed in Russia. The Chamber took over the publication of Book Chronicles, in essence a national bibliography established ten years

earlier.

Immediately after the Great October Socialist Revolution the Soviet government, acknowledging the Book Chamber's cultural and scientific significance, recognized it as a scientific institution. This was stated in a letter A.V. Lunacharsky, People's Commissar of Education, addressed to the first Director of the Book Chamber Professor S.A. Vengerov.

The Decree on Bibliography adopted by the Council of the People's Commissars and signed by V.I. Lenin on June 30, 1920 was one of the first decrees of the young Soviet state, thus bibliography acquired state importance and bibliographical activities became the concern of People's Commissariat for Education. It was entrusted with the task of organizing book chambers, opening bibliographic institutions, courses, libraries, publishing books and journals on bibliography and co-ordinating the activities of bibliographic institutions and societies. Particular attention was paid to the registration of all publications issued in the country and compilation and issue of lists of these publications.

More than half of the existing republic book chambers were organized in the twenties in realization of the Decree.

The system of book chambers with their specialised functions is one of the characteristic features of the bibliographic activity in the Soviet Union.

The system includes the All-Union Book Chamber and

17 republic book chambers - 14 in the national republics and 3 in the autonomous republics of the Russian Federation. (The RSFSR is covered by the All-Union Book Chamber).

The leading and interrelated functions of the book chambers are: (1) eternal storage in the depository of the All-Union Book Chamber copies of all the publications issued in the years of Soviet rule; in the republic chambers copies of their respective publications; (2) compilation of state bibliography and the organization on its basis of publishing statistics; (3) centralized cataloguing (we mention only those functions of the book chambers which are organically linked with state bibliography).

From its very inception systematic bibliographic registration in Russia was conducted on the basis of the legal deposit copy.

The decree passed in February 21, 1918 by the People's Commissariat for Education created the basis for state bibliography. The first clause of the legal deposit decree signed by A.V. Lunacharsky reads as follows: "Printing shops and other similar institutions are obliged to deposit with the Book Chamber eight copies of every new publication in corrected and complete form within 24 hours of its issue".

Rules of applying sanctions to the printing shops violating this clause were set down in legislative documents and instructions in the first half of the 20s and the legal deposit system envisaging that legal deposit copies are sent free by the press to book chambers and there distributed among libraries, was introduced.

In subsequent decades the Legal Deposit Law underwent certain changes: thus the time of delivery and the number of copies to be sent to libraries have been changed but the very essence of the initial decree remained the same. It provides for free of charge delivery and complete coverage of publications, a reliable basis for state bibliography and statistics, part and parcel of the state statistic control system in the USSR, assigned to the All-Union Book Chamber.

Legal deposit and state bibliography have created prerequisites for the realization of the long-cherished dream of Russian librarians -- establishment of the centralized cataloguing. Beginning with January 1, 1927 centralized cataloguing became one of the major functions of the All-Union Book Chamber. In later years this service was also taken up by book chambers of the republics.

The system of state bibliography, the already functioned in the USSR as early as in 1936, almost fully corresponds with the minimum of publications to be listed in current national bibliography which was worked out in 1950 in Paris at the International Conference on measures of improving the bibliographic services and approved in 1961 by the UNESCO International Advisary Committee on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology. The state bibliography of the USSR also includes publications not envisaged in the list.

The state bibliography registers all types of publications published in the Soviet Union.

The system of "Chronicles" ensures full registration and information about books, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, serials, transactions, music, graphic works, geographical, historical and astronomical maps and atlases, provides, with certain limitations, information about official, instructive and other publications for restricted use.

Thus the bulk of printed matter published in the Soviet Union finds reflection (some types of publications fully and some with reasonable restrictions) in the state bibliography, compiled by the All-Union Book Chamber, by book chambers of Soviet republics and book chambers of the autonomous republics of the Russian Federation and by the republic libraries in cases where there are no book chambers.

Besides registering publications according to type, all book chambers compile analytical bibliographies containing entries of periodicals and serials.

The list, recommended by the International Advisory Committee on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology includes an index of important articles from the periodicals.

However it is rather difficult, in our decade of "information explosion" and the increasing volume of periodicals in selecting articles for the index, to define which of them are "important" for the term is not definite enough.

In the Chronicles of journal articles which the All-Union Book Chamber started to publish in 1926, the

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In the Chronicles of journal articles which the All-Union Book Chamber started to publish in 1926, the

number of listed articles is steadily increasing. In recent years it has topped 1,800. The material it contains has also increased in volume. This weekly index contains over 3,000 bibliographic entries; this amounts to 155-165 thousand entries a year.

Scientific periodicals (journals and serials of the transactions type) are broadly represented in the "Chronicles"; it should be mentioned that in the 1969 alone the output of these publications of this category has increased in the number of titles by 8 per cent and in volume - by 4 per cent. Popular magazines and various publications appearing in them are given selectively. Works of fiction published in magazines and anthologies are also listed here.

Despite the impressive amount of the material reflected in the "Chronicles", the libraries and scholars insist on further extension of sources represented in the analytical bibliography, their scope and criteria of selection of the listed material.

These demands go far beyond the recommendations of the International Advisory Committee and essentially envisage an exhaustive analytic bibliography.

At the time when various information and bibliographic services are developing most energetically, it is important to determine the place of the "Chronicles of the journal's articles" in the general system of specialized bibliographic indexes and abstract services.

This problem and the problems of improving the "Chronicles" is the concern of the bibliographic research

department of the All-Union Book Chamber.

One more analytic bibliography - the Chronicles of the reviews that is being compiled by all book chambers in one form or another has been added to the list of the International Advisary Committee.

Bibliography of Soviet Bibliographies, an annual list of universal character also published by the All-Union Book Chamber is yet another supplement to the list. It contains bibliographical compilations, indexes, lists and bibliographical periodicals, published during the year, whether separately or in periodicals or newspapers, that have already appeared in the appropriate Chronicles. It also includes short bibliographies cited in books and articles and historiographic surveys. Every annual list opens with the survey "Soviet bibliography in ...".

The system of current state bibliography which approximately includes 40 publications, gives a clear view of printed matter issued in the Soviet Union.

The number of independent "Chronicles" in the various republics differs. In some republics the Chronicles are published as separate booklets according to the type of the publications they register (for instance in the Ukrainian Republic) in other republics they are combined under the general title the Chronicles of publications of such and such a republic (for instance in the Uzbek Republic), in some republics two or three booklets are issued of which one registers books, the other being

analytic indexes (for instance, in Estonia and Armenia) and finally some republics issue publications which comprise separate sections of the Chronicles of publications (for instance in the Chuvash Autonomous Republic).

Such a diverse approach is due to the number of publications published in the respective republic. Traditions also influence the practice but these two factors in no way affect the harmony of the system of state bibliography.

The establishment of a general system of publications of state bibliography in the USSR was made possible due to the following three factors: 1. Legal deposit. 2. Uniform methods. 3. Combination of current bibliography compiled by the book chambers of the republics and by the All-Union Book Chamber.

The complete implementation of legal deposit procedures, envisaging that the All-Union Book Chamber and the book chambers of the respective republics receive copies from the first batch of newly-published books, guarantees thorough and effective registration, and provides a uniform basis for state bibliography.

Regular meetings of directors of the book chambers and concrete instructions ensure uniform structure and methodology in the system of state bibliography.

Back in 1924 the first meeting of representatives of book chambers discussed questions concerning the

co-ordination of activities of these bibliographical centres, the necessity of working out an instruction on catalogue entries and the unification of indexing methods and statistics.

At the second meeting held in 1925 six book chambers were represented: the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. They discussed problems of selecting materials for the state bibliography, cataloguing and classification methods.

In the beginning of 1928 having gained the necessary experience book chambers were able to formulate basic rules for cataloguing printed matter in the state bibliography.

Gradually as the system of state bibliography took shape and its methods improved, they became obligatory for all the chambers.

The tradition of organizing meetings of book chambers has been retained. In 1969 the seventeenth meeting took place. And though these meetings are still called "meetings of directors" not only directors but also other members of the staff of these book chambers now actively participate in the discussions.

From the time the Book Chamber of the Russian Federation was reorganised and the All-Union Chamber created (end of 1935) the scientific and methodological guidance of the chambers has intensified and became regular.

The first years after the World War II were marked by considerable achievements in the field of methodology: the classification scheme at the state bibliographic bodies was established, "Uniform catalogue rules for the compilation of library catalogues" were further developed with assistance from the leading libraries of the country, "Regulations on the system of publications of the All-Union Book Chamber and the Chambers in the republics and autonomus republics" was adopted in 1949 at the 9th meeting of the Book Chamber directors. In 1947 the All-Union Book Chamber started the publication of the series "Methodological materials on state bibliographic registration" of which 24 issues have been published up to now.

Rational combination of the publications of the All-Union Book Chamber and those of the chambers of the Republics favour the consistency of the system of state bibliography in the USSR. Interrelation between All-Union registration and registration on the republican level is effected along two lines: 1. Parallel current registration. 2. Publication of bibliographies supplementing one another.

Publications issued in the union and autonomous republics are listed both in the republic and All-Union Chronicles according to the stand classification system adopted in publications of state bibliography. Registration of the publications in the republic Chronicles makes

it possible to keep track of developments in public life, science and technology, literature and art in each of the Soviet republics.

By reflecting multi-national interests of the country the All-Union state bibliography facilitates the mutual enrichment of the peoples of the USSR.

In republican current bibliography the bibliographical entry is given in the official language of the republic with the special indication of the original language of the publication and the Russian translation of the title. Entries of Russian publications are made in the same language. Entries of journals and newspapers are made in the original language. In a number of the republics this rule also applies to books.

In the All-Union state bibliographies the entry is given in Russian, which has actually become the language of the intercommunication and co-operation of all the peoples of the Soviet Union. The language of the original (except Russian) is indicated in the bibliographical entry itself and in the auxiliary index-list of languages. In the "Chronicles of periodicals" the title of the publication is first given in Russian and then in the original language.

Thus every citizen of the Soviet Union is able to make use of state bibliography regardless of the language he speaks.

The approach is different in combining analytic bibliography compiled by the All-Union Book Chamber and

that of the republics. It has been said earlier that the bulk of the material falls to the lot of the "Chronicles of journal articles", in particular, therefore, it is only natural that the duplication here is only partial. While the republican chambers register all periodicals published in the republics regardless of their language the All-Union Book Chamber has to deal with a veritable landslide of journals, newspapers, literature and art anthologies, serials and transactions and lists them regardless of the place of their publications. It therefore restricts itself to publishing bibliographic material only in Russian. Therefore the All-Union and the republican analytic bibliography supplement one another.

A place of special importance in the publications of the All-Union Book Chamber is occupied by the Chronicles of Soviet Periodicals which gives comprehensive coverage of journals, transactions, All-Union, republican, regional, territorial, town, inter-district and district newspapers. Since the chief components of the bibliographical entry of the majority of newspapers and magazines do not frequently change, the complete list is published once every five years. In subsequent years only lists of journals and newspapers the names of which have changed or are no longer published, are issued. These lists are annual with every new issue accumulating the contents of the previous ones. The separately

published annual indexes of serials register publications or issues of these publications that have been received by the All-Union Book Chamber.

Comprehensive registration in the Chronicles of Soviet Periodicals is combined with the bibliographic entry which includes notes as to whether the publication has been renamed, reorganized or undergone some other changes.

The "Chronicles" make it possible for the user to get acquainted with the periodicals and serials published in Russian and in the languages of the peoples of the USSR.

Although the majority of the republics conduct current registration of periodicals, the Chronicles of Soviet Periodicals due to its extensive bibliographic programme is indispensable in information retrieval by subject field.

In conclusion we would like to mention that since we have dealt here with the specific features of organization of state bibliography of the USSR rather than its present state, we, naturally did not analyse either the republican or the All-Union Bibliographic publications, even the most important of them, for instance, the Book Chronicles of the All-Union Book Chamber, the oldest in the country.

It is for the same reason that we restricted ourselves to the current state bibliography and did not

touch upon the retrospective bibliography. In the field of general retrospective bibliography, Soviet book chambers have accumulated in the last few decades an extensive and rich experience, but we think that its review would not have introduced principally new aspects into the subject under discussion now.